



Many Voices Working for the Community

# Advocate

## ORSSAB Hosts National SSAB Workshop On Long-Term Stewardship

On October 25–27, over 100 Department of Energy (DOE) stakeholders, including 50 members of DOE Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) from nine DOE sites, met in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to discuss the current state of stewardship at DOE sites and the related actions and activities that are most important for DOE to pursue in the near future.



*Workshop facilitator Doug Sarno welcomes participants at Tuesday's opening session. Over 100 people attended the event, including 50 SSAB members from around the country.*

- acceptance of the responsibility for long-term stewardship for contaminated areas;
- development of a national policy on stewardship;
- establishment of a legal mandate for funding stewardship activities separate from remediation funding;
- development of a better understanding of the trade-offs and relationship between cleanup and stewardship;
- development of guidance for site-specific stewardship plans;
- involvement of stakeholders in stewardship planning, oversight, and review; and
- establishment of information systems (e.g., databases, permanent markers) designed for use by future generations.

Early in the planning stages for the workshop, conference calls among SSAB chairs revealed differing opinions and interpretations of stewardship. There were also varying expectations for the outcome of the workshop. Thus, instead of trying to develop consensus recommendations for submittal to DOE Headquarters, as has been the practice at previous complex-wide SSAB meetings, it was agreed that the goal of the stewardship workshop would be to enhance participants' understanding of stewardship and how it might apply to DOE sites.

It was also apparent early on that no single definition of stewardship would work for all sites, but for purposes of the meeting, it was agreed to start with the following general

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Participants in the "SSAB Workshop on Stewardship" developed Ten Next Steps for Stewardship and agreed that DOE, in cooperation with its stakeholders, must provide direction, funding, and technical support for implementation of these actions. The ten steps and their associated issues can be summarized as:

*continued on page 2*

## ORSSAB Hosts National SSAB Workshop

*continued from page 1*

definition developed by the Oak Ridge stakeholders:

Stewardship is defined as “acceptance of the responsibility and the implementation of activities necessary to maintain long-term protection of human health and of the environment from hazards posed by residual radioactive and chemically hazardous materials.”

About a month before the meeting, five issue papers were distributed to participants. The papers addressed the following questions:

- What is stewardship?
- What needs to be done?
- Who should do what?
- How should we deal with stewardship information?
- How should stewardship be funded?

Workshop participants, after a plenary discussion using the issue papers as a guide, decided to address the following core topics:

- funding;
- stewardship roles and responsibility;
- community involvement;
- linkages (i.e., trade-offs and relationships between cleanup and stewardship); and
- information and sustainable responsibility.

In site-specific breakout sessions, site representatives decided on site-related issues to bring to the core topic breakout sessions. At least one representative from each site was assigned to each core topic group.

The final plenary session comprised discussions and presentations of the issues and proposed next steps for stewardship that were developed by the core topic groups. Consensus on these “next steps” was reached with the understanding

that the statements do not represent agreement or endorsement by the SSABs. However, the results of the meeting were to be submitted to DOE Headquarters. There was general agreement that workshop attendees would take the list of next steps to their respective SSABs; federal, state, and local governments; tribes; and other stakeholders.



*Members of the SWG and the End Use Working Group were honored recently by the State of Tennessee with the presentation of a certificate of appreciation “in recognition of outstanding recommendations toward end use and stewardship planning in the best interests and in the highest traditions of the State of Tennessee.”*



*Brian Taylor (at easel) and Ken Korkia (standing) of the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board facilitate at one of Wednesday's breakout sessions. At least one representative from each site was assigned to each session to discuss the “Next Steps for Stewardship.”*

The workshop also included presentations on stewardship issues from EPA Headquarters, DOE Headquarters, State of Tennessee, City of Oak Ridge and others. Representatives of these agencies provided insight into stewardship issues at the local, state and national levels.

## SSAB Annual Report Now Available

To receive a copy of the *ORSSAB Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1999*, write or call us using the address or phone numbers shown on the back page.



# Next Steps for Stewardship

DOE, working in cooperation with its stakeholders, needs to provide direction, funding and technical support for the implementation of these Next Steps for Stewardship:

1. Establishment of a legal mandate for assured stewardship fund(s) of DOE, Department of Defense, Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program, or successor agency sites, separate from remediation and spending funds, to include:
  - The determination of how the fund(s) are to be generated
  - The planning for and estimating of ownership costs today
  - Development of a plan for the application of money for sites
  - The assurance of public participation in all of the above
2. The development of a national policy on stewardship that includes:
  - Legal basis (law)
  - On-going review
  - Allowance for site-specificity
  - The establishment of minimum standards
  - Continuing research and development
  - Funding
  - Stewardship termination criteria
3. The immediate start to developing enforceable site-specific stewardship plans at each DOE site with the involvement of:
  - Tribes
  - Federal government
  - State government
  - Local government
  - Public environmental advocates
  - Public health officials
  - Youth
4. The establishment of a national policy for stewardship and the pursuit of legislation mandating the direct involvement of affected stakeholders in site-specific stewardship planning, including the development of written site-specific stewardship plans
5. The establishment of site-specific mechanisms for regular stewardship reviews and future broad-based stakeholder involvement and oversight
6. The development of a better understanding of the trade-offs and relationships between cleanup and stewardship, for example:
  - Full costs
  - Risks
  - Ecological impacts
  - Environmental quality
  - Political realities
7. The development and implementation of stewardship plans that take advantage of the dynamic nature of stewardship, including:
  - New technologies
  - Changing land use
  - Changing risk evaluations
  - Information needs of decision-makers
8. The utilization and/or development of both detailed, robust information systems and permanent systems containing minimal essential information (e.g., plaques, monuments)
9. The utilization and/or development of information systems with the following characteristics:
  - Full characterization of contamination
  - Closure configuration
  - Declassification of relevant information
  - Discrepancies between designs and as-builts
  - Life cycle risk profiles
- Geohydrological profiles
- Lessons learned (e.g., Love Canal)
- Credible futurist scenarios
- Record categories: RODs; waste transfer, etc.
- Durable and flexible storage media (upgrades)
- Utilize lessons learned from the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence
- Must balance national scope with local needs; quality, relevance, and timeliness
- Utilize and integrate local institutions (museums, libraries, historical societies, county records)
- Accessibility
- Redundancy
- Diversity of form and content: oral, written, and video histories
- Ensure periodic review to integrate new information
- Must be integrated into culture
- Utilize durable institutions (schools, churches, museums/libraries)
- Utilize varied media for participation: signage, kiosks, recreational activities
- Develop standardized symbols
10. In order to ensure sustainable responsibility for long-term stewardship for contaminated areas, the following actions should be taken:
  - Educate: inform future generations of important history; cultivate long-term stewardship values
  - Formalize long-term stewardship in legally binding agreements to ensure involvement and accountability
  - Recruit: “hand off the baton”
  - Institutionalize: formalize local, tribal, state and federal governmental responsibilities

# Board Sets FY 2000 Work Plan

Made your New Year's resolutions yet?

The SSAB has, but unlike most of us who wait till January 1, the Board made most of them back in October when it met to map out a work plan for the new fiscal year.

## Structure Takes Shape at Planning Retreat

Resolutions were the order of the day when the Board met for its annual planning retreat on Friday and Saturday, October 15 and 16, in Knoxville. The purpose of the retreat was to assess FY 1999 accomplishments and chart a course for conducting Board business in the new fiscal year (October 1, 1999, through September 30, 2000). SSAB members, ex officios, support office staff, and Rod Nelson, DOE-Oak Ridge Operations (DOE-ORO) Assistant Manager for Environmental Management (EM), all attended the meeting, which was moderated by an independent facilitator.

Planning for the event began weeks earlier when the Board solicited input from DOE-ORO, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 on what issues the agencies would like to see the Board address. Comments were also sought from the public via the Board's annual Stakeholder Survey (see story on page 7).

The retreat got underway Friday afternoon with analysis of Board achievements, committee needs, resources, and areas for improvement, and discussion of topics to focus on in FY 2000. Twenty-one topics were initially proposed for consideration by DOE, TDEC, EPA, stakeholders, and

Board members. Work began in earnest the following day on winnowing that list down to a manageable few. To help them choose what to concentrate on,



*Dave Adler (left), Rikki Traylor, and Jeff Cange share a lighter moment at the Board's annual planning retreat, held October 15 and 16 in Knoxville.*

the group examined each topic by answering the following questions:

- What is our best role?
- What activities or actions would constitute success, and what are their attributes?
- What is the time-frame for action?

As Board members discussed issues, some topics were combined into larger categories, and others were tabled when they were deemed beyond the scope of Board activities. By the end of the retreat, three major project teams had been identified, and the Board had a good idea of its FY 2000 structure and a process for implementing its plan.

## Work Continues in Follow-On Meetings

Major project teams met in late October to set agendas for the year, and refinement of the Board's work plan continued at the October Executive Committee and November Board meetings. In addition to the three major project teams formed at the planning retreat, three special project teams were set up, and two cross-cutting issues were identified for

all teams to consider when studying subjects within their scopes. Work on defining team scope statements is still in progress, but preliminary outlines are as follows.

## Major Project Teams

Environmental Restoration. The team identified the following activities for inclusion in its scope of work: (1) review documents and selected remedies, (2) oversee implementation of selected remedies, (3) consider ways to streamline the CERCLA process, (4) consider health and safety aspects of remedy selection criteria, and (5) consider public outreach in team activities.

Project Baseline. Review of the DOE-ORO EM budget and project baselining initiative were viewed as areas where the Board could make an important contribution, in much the same way the Board's Budget & Prioritization Team did in FY 1999. Two things team members identified as being important are (1) holding DOE accountable and exploring what steps DOE is taking to encourage efficiencies and (2) allowing opportunities for the public to participate in team deliberations.

Waste Management. Subjects included in the team's scope will be (1) off-site waste disposal options, including DOE-ORO access to Nevada Test Site disposal facilities, the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision, and on-site storage and management of legacy waste; (2) transportation; (3) Toxic Substances Control Act Incinerator permitting, emissions, and public acceptance; (4) public outreach and worker and public health and safety; and (5) the on-site CERCLA waste disposal facility.



## Special Project Teams

**Board Process.** The purpose of this team is to serve as the Board's forum for initial debate on issues involving Board process. The team's scope includes bylaws, standing rules, Board meeting structure, staff interface, and standards and formats for submitting



*Team building and communication exercises added an important dimension to the SSAB retreat. Here, SSAB members (left to right) Darrell Srdoc, Dave Mosby, Randy Gordon, Luther Gibson, and Robert Blaum take part in an exercise that required members to coordinate their activities to accomplish a specific goal.*

recommendations and comments to DOE.

**Public Outreach.** One of the Board's most active teams in FY 1999, Public Outreach will again serve as a communication link between ORSSAB and the public. Efforts will center on educating local stakeholders, civic groups, and governmental bodies about ORSSAB and encouraging public participation in ORSSAB activities.

**Stewardship.** To assure continuity of effort and to serve as a mechanism for maintaining the Board's commitment to stewardship, the Board has formed a special project team to follow up on the very successful efforts of the Stewardship Working

Group (SWG). In FY 1999, the ORSSAB Stewardship Project Team led SWG efforts, which culminated in October's Stewardship Workshop and creation of Volume 2 of the *Stakeholder Report on Stewardship*.

## Cross-Cutting Issues

**Worker Health and Safety.** The Board determined that other stakeholder groups were already addressing the topic adequately and that the issue can be considered by project teams as they study subjects specific to their scopes of work. The Board committed to designating a representative to the citizens' group being formed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

**Vision for the East Tennessee Technology Park.** Reindustrialization and other issues concerning the site were determined to be cross-cutting and will be addressed by the Board as needed. Project teams will also consider issues concerning the park as they arise in team deliberations.

# Board Elects New Officers for FY 2000

At its September meeting, the SSAB elected officers for FY 2000. Taking over the helm this year are Steve Kopp, Chair; Demetra Nelson, Vice-Chair; and Rikki Traylor, Secretary.

**Steve Kopp** is a Senior Project Manager for Parsons Infrastructure and Technology Group, Inc. He is an attorney with more than 24 years of experience in the environmental health and safety regulatory field and is immediate past Chair for the Citizens' Advisory Panel of the



Local Oversight Committee. Steve served as leader of the Public Outreach Team in FYs 1998 and 1999.

**Demetra Nelson** is a senior scientist (biochemist) for Radian International. She is a member of Spurgeon Chapel AME Zion Church and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Demetra served as leader of the Health & Safety Team in FY 1999.



**Rikki Traylor** is a Knoxville homemaker, and her background includes teaching and research. Rikki is presently active in a number of zoning issues and is a member of the Citizen's Clearing House for Hazardous Waste and Amnesty International. Rikki served as Board Secretary and leader of the Board Process Team in FY 1999. In FY 1998 she was leader of the Technology Development and Deployment Team.

## New Faces Bring Fresh Perspectives to the SSAB

A number of changes in ORSSAB membership occurred in FY 1999: six long-time members retired, and seven new names were added to the roster.

In August, DOE appointed five new members to the Board to replace members whose terms expired in July. The new members are Jake Alexander and Jeff Cange of Oak Ridge; Robert Blaum of Rockwood; Luther Gibson, Jr., of Harriman; and Darrell Srdoc of Loudon.

Jake is a regulatory compliance manager and a member of the adjunct faculty of the University of Tennessee's Engineering Graduate School. Jeff is a registered professional geologist who is employed by Bechtel National as a project manager/technical specialist. Robert and Luther are employed by Lockheed Martin Energy Systems, Inc.

Robert is a pipe fitter and a member of Local Union 718, and Luther works as a development staff member in the Analytical Chemistry Organization at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Darrell is a

quality assurance manager for GTS Duratek.

The six Board members who chose not to ask for reappointment this year—Joe Alexander of Knoxville, Jack Bowden of Lenoir City, Donna Campbell of Harriman, Fred Creswick



*In August, DOE sponsored a tour of the Oak Ridge Reservation for SSAB members to give them a first-hand look at on-going projects. Shown left to right: Darrell Srdoc, Jake Alexander, Anne-Marie Wiest, Luther Gibson, Bill Pardue, Robert Blaum, and Jeff Cange.*

of Ten Mile, Ken Parks of Kingston, and Bob Peelle of Oak Ridge—were honored in a special ceremony at the August 4 Board meeting.

## Report from the SSAB Chairs' Meeting

By Steve Kopp, ORSSAB Chair

Twice yearly, the Chairs of the eleven SSABs meet to share information, plan SSAB-sponsored workshops, and discuss issues of common interest. The Fall 1999 meeting was hosted by the Hanford Advisory Board and held in Richland, Washington, on September 20-23.

On Monday, Environmental Management (EM) Assistant Secretary Dr. Carolyn Huntoon met with the Chairs for two hours. During her presentation she discussed the rationale for her recent reorganization of EM and some of the initiatives she plans to implement during her tenure. Her presentation was followed by a round robin discussion, during which representatives from each site asked questions or discussed site-specific issues. Our major question regarded

the status of a Record of Decision for the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

On Tuesday, a video conference was held with the Chairs and DOE Secretary Bill Richardson. During the conference, Secretary Richardson discussed his September 10th meeting with the governors of Colorado, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Washington regarding equity and intersite cooperation.

Beyond the obvious benefits of conducting business face to face, the Chairs' meetings offer an excellent opportunity for the host SSAB to educate other boards about their site issues and cleanup challenges. To this end, the Hanford Advisory Board offered a tour of DOE's Hanford Reservation, followed by a trip to a Yakama Indian lodge for dinner.

The bulk of business was conducted on Wednesday and Thursday when the Chairs met to discuss SSAB-related issues. A major topic on the agenda was planning for the national SSAB stewardship workshop in Oak Ridge. ORSSAB members Lorene Sigal and Bill Pardue led discussion of the event. Other business included status updates on a variety of DOE EM topics and a discussion session on the revised draft EM SSAB guidance.

The meeting concluded with a boat tour of the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River. The tour offered not only an opportunity to reflect on the scenic beauty of the area but also on how important it is for the SSABs and all stakeholders to continue working to ensure that EM goals are met so we can leave our children a clean and healthy environment.

# Results of the Stakeholder Survey

Each year ORSSAB surveys the stakeholders on its mailing list to learn what issues are most important to them and find out how well the Board is doing in representing and communicating with the public.

This information is used at the Board's annual planning retreat to help decide which aspects of the DOE Environmental Management (EM) Program to focus on and to measure and target public outreach efforts in the coming year. With limited time and resources, it's important that the Board address only those issues deemed most important by the community (and on which ORSSAB can have a measurable impact) and effectively communicate with stakeholders.

The survey was sent out in September to 415 individuals and organizations and was posted on the Board's Web site. Recipients were asked to rate a variety of issues from 1-10 to indicate what they believed ORSSAB should focus on in FY 2000 (1 = unimportant; 10 = very important). The following table lists survey topics and the average rating each topic received.

## Stakeholder Survey Responses

Topic	Average Rating
EM budget and prioritization	7.6
Cost-effectiveness of cleanup decisions	7.6
Land and facility stewardship	7.0
Treatment and disposal of waste	6.6
Worker and community health concerns	6.4
On-site waste cell construction	6.3
Reindustrialization	6.1
Waste import/export equity	6.0
Off-site waste disposal and transportation	6.0
Toxic Substances Control Act Incinerator	4.9

As shown in the report on the Board's planning retreat (page 4), the top vote getters in the survey correspond with the ORSSAB FY 2000 project teams, and subordinate issues will be integrated into those teams' scopes of work.

The following table shows responses to SSAB-related questions.

Question	Yes	No	Don't Know
Do you believe that ORSSAB represents a credible, independent stakeholder voice?	70%	16%	14%
Do you believe that ORSSAB represents your views regarding DOE EM issues?	46%	18%	36%
Do you believe that ORSSAB does a good job of communicating with the public?	61%	20%	19%

The Board thanks all of you who participated in this year's survey. If you haven't sent in your response card, you can still participate by filling in the survey on our Web site (<http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab>) .

# Pardue Honored for Service

One year as ORSSAB Chair is probably enough to test anyone's mettle, but Bill Pardue, who recently retired from the post after serving as Chair in fiscal years 1998 and 1999, has proven that it's possible to lead the Board for two straight years and do it with grace and good humor.



*Rod Nelson, left, DOE-ORO Assistant Manager for Environmental Management, presents Bill with a plaque in appreciation for his service to the Board.*

"It's been a challenge serving as Chair," Pardue said during a recognition ceremony held in his honor at the October 6 Board meeting, "but it's been a real pleasure, too. I think we've accomplished an awful lot for this community in helping DOE and in helping the community communicate with DOE. The Board has made some real contributions, but it's not because of the leadership, it's because of all the members working so hard."

That spirit of inclusiveness is just one of the many leadership qualities that won Bill the admiration of Board members, DOE staffers, and stakeholders alike. FY 2000 Board Chair Steve Kopp summed it up well at the meeting when he called Bill "the daddy of all stakeholders in this community."

# Adler/Davis Team Takes Over for DOE Ex Officio Marianne Heiskell

"It takes two to fill her shoes!"

Pat Rush's comment was typical of the praise paid DOE's Marianne Heiskell at the October 6 Board meeting, where the announcement was made that her



Marianne Heiskell

ex officio duties would be assumed by

Dave Adler and Carolyn Davis.



Dave Adler

"We've grown to appreciate not only her knowledge but her willingness to get things done," Rush said, and SSAB Deputy Designated Federal Official Rod Nelson added that Heiskell had "taken the Board to a new level."

The change in ex officios became necessary when Heiskell accepted a one-year assignment outside the DOE-ORO Environmental Management (EM) Program to oversee the transition to a new contractor of Oak Ridge Reservation security forces.

In her absence, Dave Adler, leader of the DOE-ORO Y-12 EM Team, will assume the role of SSAB ex officio, in addition to his other duties. Carolyn Davis will add to her other duties as DOE EM Public Involvement Coordinator the task of overseeing management and liason of the Board. The Board wishes them both good luck in filling some very big shoes.



Carolyn Davis

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IN THIS ISSUE	
Stewardship Workshop .....	1
Next Steps for Stewardship .....	3
FY 2000 Work Plan .....	4
New Officers .....	5
New Members .....	6
Report from the SSAB	
Chairs Meeting .....	6
Stakeholder Survey .....	7
Pardue Honored .....	7
DOE Changes Ex Officio .....	8

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